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1. (Three Times Amended) An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12, or an isolated DNA which hybridizes with the isolated DNA immobilized on a filter at 65°C in the presence of 0.7-1.0M NaCl and still hybridizes with the isolated DNA after washing the filter with 0.1 X to 2 X SSC solution (wherein 1 X SSC is 150 mM sodium chloride and 15 mM sodium citrate) at 65°C and comprises a nucleotide sequence having a homology of 60% or more with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 or having a homology of 95% or more with a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:9-12.

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22. (Amended) A method for detecting a mRNA whose expression level increases in leukocytes of IgA nephropathy patients as compared with those of healthy persons by RT-PCR, comprising:

- (a) isolating a total RNA from a sample;
- (b) synthesizing a cDNA from the RNA; and
- (c) amplifying and detecting a DNA fragment by PCR using a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuous 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12 and a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence identical to any continuous 10 to 50 residues in a nucleotide sequence selected from the nucleotide sequences consisting of

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Amended

complementary sequences of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12 as primers and the cDNA as a template.

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23. (New) A method for diagnosing IgA nephropathy in a subject comprising:

(a) detecting mRNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-6 and 9-12 in leukocytes of a subject and healthy person and

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(b) diagnosing IgA nephropathy in the subject based on an increased level of said mRNA in leukocytes of the subject as compared with those of healthy persons.

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#### REMARKS

Claim 1 and 22 have been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. Additionally, new Claim 23 is presented in order to more specifically recite various preferred embodiments of the present invention.

The subject matter of the amendment is found in the specification as filed, *inter alia*, at page 6, line 15 to page 7, line 5, page 7, line 16, and page 33, line 19 to page 34, line 10. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 4 and 22 for the formal reasons noted. In response, claim 4 has been cancelled and claim 22 has been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner.